

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With reference to Figure 3, the desorption cell 1 is formed from a space ~~[[31]]~~ 41, for example of substantially cylindrical shape, surrounded by an electrically heated and suitably insulated sleeve ~~[[32]]~~ 42, and from a removable hermetic-sealing ring nut ~~[[33]]~~ 43 which when removed enables the preform P to be inserted. A conduit 35, connected to the valve 30 of the scavenging connector 20, opens into the forward part of the cell, a conduit 34 being provided at the inner end of the cell. The cell ~~[[31]]~~ 1 can receive preform samples of different lengths and widths. After inserting a preform into the cell, the closure ring nut 33 ensures that the extraction system is hermetically sealed.--